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NPIC/TSG/RED-278-70
23 November 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Technical Services Group, NPIC

SUBJECT : Comments on Draft of the Paper on Information Needs of the Executive Director, NPIC, and the NPIC Management Information System Dated 18 November 1970

25X1 1. [] paper is interesting and thought provoking. He has done a thorough job of describing the evolution of the MIS, its problems, its growing pains, and its current inadequacies. It has been RED's experience in the past, when we were conscientiously inputting to that system, that the MIS required considerable expenditures of manpower in order to maintain and update the voluminous data base. Despite considerable effort on our part, we were never able to utilize the MIS data base to support our own management functions. This has been better accomplished through the use of our own reporting procedures, status boards, CIS, and our newly evolved computerized PICCIP system. However, the MIS was designed to support Center management and not internal operations. As a consequence, only management can determine if it is serving a useful function; i.e., is the information provided useful enough to justify its not inconsequential drain on our resources? It has been our observations that the MIS seems to work more effectively on production oriented operations than when related to the dynamic service operations such as research and development, where flexibility is essential. Therefore, alternatives two and three are obviously more to our liking.

2. RED does have some concern related to [] suggestion that R&D components provide the Center with a periodic (quarterly) report. It is our strong feeling that such a report would be redundant and would further stretch already overtaxed resources. All the information required is readily available and currently provided to management on a periodic basis in terms of our status boards, contract inspection reports, planning documents, budgetary reviews, and the quarterly situation summary inputs provided to PPBS. If it is felt that a quarterly briefing, covering accomplishments during a reporting period, is needed, we will gladly do so. However, the suggested written report would appear to be a case of sheer "overkill."

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Declass Review by
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[REDACTED]
Chief, Research and Engineering Division
NPIC

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